

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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LONDON FOR NEWSOM

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABIDJAN, ACCRA, ADDIS ABABA,
CONAKRY, DAKAR, DAR ES SALAAM, KINSHASA, LAGOS, LUSAKA,
MONROVIA FROM LISBON MAR 13 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

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TAGS: PFOR, OAS, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL AND OAS

REF: A) STATE 044061 B) DAR ES SALAAM 824
C) MONROVIA 1199 D) CONAKRY 362

1. SUMMARY: IN CONTEXT PORTUGUESE APPLICATION FOR OAS
OBSERVER STATUS, WE FEEL THAT WE CAN AND MUST SEPARATE
AFRICAN AND NON- AFRICAN MATTERS IN OUR DEALINGS WITH
PORTUGUESE, BOTH TO ENABLE US TO ACHIEVE OUR NON- AFRICAN
AIMS AND TO ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO SECURE HEARING FROM
PORTUGUESE ON AFRICAN ISSUES. END SUMMARY

2. WHILE PORTUGAL' S APPLICATION FOR OAS OBSERVER STATUS
NOW AT LEAST TEMPORARILY IN ABEYANCE (REF A), ISSUE
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RAISES QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE WHICH WE FEEL BEARS SOME THOUGHT.

3. REFS B, C, AND D REFLECT DEEPLY- FELT AFRICAN ABHORRENCE OF CONTINUED SURVIVAL OF ANACHRONISTIC PORTUGUESE COLONIAL SYSTEM DESPITE NEAR- UNIVERSAL CONDEMNATION AND OVER TWELVE YEARS OF REVOLUTIONARY CONFLICT. IN THEIR FRUSTRATION OVER WORLD COMMUNITY' S INABILITY TERMINATE THIS SITUATION, AFRICANS UNDERSTANDABLY LED TO BELIEVE THAT US COULD, IF IT WANTED, PRESSURE PORTUGUESE TO DO THE RIGHT THING BUT INSTEAD IS HELPING TO PROLONG PORTUGUESE RULE IN AFRICAN TERRITORIES. AFRICANS SEEK CASTIGATE PORTUGUESE WHENEVER OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF, WHETHER OR NOT RELATED TO AFRICA, AND SEEK OUR SUPPORT, INTERPRETING ANY UNWILLINGNESS ON OUR PART AS CONFIRMATION OF THEIR SUSPICIONS ABOUT OUR SINCERITY WHEN WE PROTEST OUR DEDICATION TO PRINCIPLE OF SELF- DETERMINATION IN RELATION TO PORTUGUESE AFRICA. THEY SEE NO INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN ON THE ONE HAND, SEEKING OUR SUPPORT FOR MEASURES DESIGNED TO PUNISH PORTUGAL, AND ON THE OTHER, URGING US TO PRESSURE PORTUGAL TO MEND ITS WAYS.

4. AFRICAN CONSIDERATIONS INDEED PERMEATE A GREAT DEAL OF OUR RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL. BUT THERE IS A BROAD RANGE OF MATTERS WHICH IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO SEPARATE FROM ANY DIRECT CONNECTION WITH AFRICA. THIS APPLIES NOT ONLY TO SECURITY MATTERS RELATED TO NATO OR THE AZORES, BUT ALSO TO TRADE AND PAYMENTS ISSUES, TO VOTING POSITIONS WE WANT THE GOP TO TAKE IN THE UN AND OTHER FORA, TO CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS, LAW OF THE SEA, CCMS, CSCE, MBFR, ETC., ETC. TO SECURE PORTUGUESE SUPPORT ON SUCH MATTERS, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY ARE OF MARGINAL INTEREST TO PORTUGAL, REQUIRES, AT A MINIMUM, THAT WE CONDUCT SUCH RELATIONS WITH THE PORTUGUESE IN A MANNER NORMAL BETWEEN FRIENDLY STATES.

5. CONDUCTING NORMAL RELATIONS ALSO IMPLIES THAT ON OCCASION WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT PORTUGAL ON MATTERS OF SOME IMPORTANCE TO THE GOP, PARTICULARLY IF THEY ARE OF RELATIVELY MARGINAL IMPORTANCE TO US. INDEED, FOR US TO TALK ABOUT AFRICA WITH THE PORTUGUESE WITH ANY DEGREE OF PERSUASIVENESS, IT MUST BE AS A FRIEND WHO, WHILE STEADFASTLY DIFFERING ON THAT POINT, NONETHELESS HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEMONSTRATED THAT ITS GOOD WILL IS VALUABLE TO PORTUGAL.

6. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO KNOW ALL OF THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE OAS ISSUE, BUT ON THE FACE OF IT, THE AFRICAN POSITION APPEARS BASED SOLELY ON GENERAL OPPOSITION TO PORTUGAL. THIS SUGGESTS THAT AFRICAN UNHAPPINESS SHOULD THE US SUPPORT PORTUGAL WOULD NOT BE BASED ON ANY SPECIFIC INJURY TO AFRICAN INTERESTS. BY THE SAME TOKEN, WE WOULD NOT BEGIN TO CLAIM THAT FAILURE TO SUPPORT PORTUGAL ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BY ITSELF COST US THE AZORES. BUT WE SUSPECT THAT OAS OBSERVER STATUS MEANS MORE TO PORTUGAL THAN DENYING PORTUGAL THAT STATUS MEANS TO AFRICA. IF THE MERITS OF THE CASE ARGUE FOR US TO SUPPORT PORTUGAL, WE FEEL WE SHOULD, BOTH FOR THAT REASON AND BECAUSE DOING SO WILL GIVE US THAT MUCH INCREMENTAL LEVERAGE WITH THE PORTUGUESE.
POST

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